



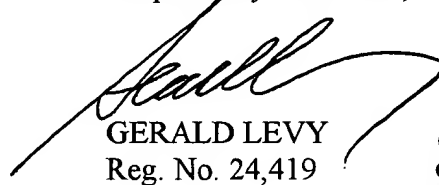
Remarks

We trust that the examiner will now find the application to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested. In this regard the examiner will note that the claims have been amended to more clearly set forth the invention and the distinction from the cited art. In particular, the claims stand rejected in view of May '156. In May the zipper flanges 16 and 18 are both sealed to the bag walls directly behind the interlocking members of the zipper. This requires heat and/or pressure to be applied to the interlocking members which poses the danger of the interlocking members distorting. In distinction, each of the seal areas of the present invention is spaced apart from the interlocking members.

In addition, in accordance with May, one side of the longer web (the bottom side as viewed in Fig. 1) is sealed to both bag walls. The present claims have been amended to make it clear that in accordance with the present invention both sides of the longer web are sealed to only one wall.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended herein are patentably distinguishable over the cited art and the claims are now in condition for allowance. Marked up versions of the amended claims are included in an Appendix attached hereto. A relatively early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


GERALD LEVY
Reg. No. 24,419

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APPENDIX

14. (Amended) A reclosable package comprising:
- a first wall and a second wall opposite said first wall;
 - a zipper strip for selectively opening and closing said package, said zipper strip comprising a male interlocking profile extending along an internal surface of said first wall and a female interlocking profile extending along an internal surface of said second wall;
 - said male interlocking profile having a male interlocking member and a male web integral therewith;
 - said female interlocking profile having a male interlocking member and a male web integral therewith;
 - said female interlocking profile having a female interlocking member and a female web integral therewith, said male interlocking member being engagable within said female interlocking member being engagable within said female interlocking member to join said male and female interlocking profiles together;
 - wherein one of said male and female webs is wider than the other of said male and female webs in at least one of two directions from said male and female interlocking members, the greater width of the wider of said male and female webs being at least one flange extending widthwise beyond the other of said male and female webs;
 - wherein said at least one flange is sealed only to one of said package walls, said seal being at least a first seal area spaced apart from said interlocking members on a first side of said interlocking members; and

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wherein the other interlocking profile is sealed to the other package wall at a second seal area spaced apart from said interlocking members and spaced apart from said first seal area along the width of said zipper strip said second seal area being on said first side of said interlocking members.

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16. (Amended) A reclosable package according to [claim 15] claim 14 wherein a portion of the interlocking profile having said wider web which is not said at least one flange is separately sealed only to the same package walls as said at least one flange spaced from said interlocking members and on a side of said interlocking members opposite to said first side.

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